



# THE WACCAMAW INDIAN PEOPLE

*An Indian Tribe Recognized by the State of South Carolina*

Founding Member of the South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission

## Office of the Chief

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The Information Collection Clearance Officer,  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Mail Stop 336-SIB4141  
1849 C Street, NW.  
Washington, DC 20240

Proposed changes to CFR 25 -83

Dear Sir or Madam:

First contact with the European explorers began on the east coast. Western Indians met the devastation brought by them over 200 years after we, on the east coast, did. Therefore, the settlers, who had a written language, extensively documented their history, culture, and societies, while our plight was war, slavery and disease. Their intent was to dismantle our society, not record it.

This fact is not reflected in the current CFR and lineage, names, inner tribal history, control, and so forth that could only have been recorded by the whites, are now demanded by the CFR, as proof. Moving the start date to 1935 to successfully meet criteria "b" and "c" will mark a great improvement in this area but it will not completely solve it. Some adjustment is also required in criteria "e".

Criteria "e" mandates that a group must show proof that its members today can show a genealogical or historic tie to a "historic" tribe. According to the CFR, this can be met in various ways, most of which require white records. There is no start date given for this criterion, but logically, one would think it would be the first time the group was recorded in historic records. There were no recordings of Native genealogy in those days.

Additionally, Native names were not recorded along with their descendants and ancestors. Native people didn't issue birth certificates and oftentimes Natives changed their names several times throughout their lives. Therefore, this criterion is not fair to eastern tribes.

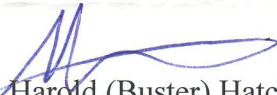
The CFR does allow a group to meet this standard by showing official state or federal records or evidence identifying present members as descendants of that historic tribe. The CFR provides no credit for the extensive process of obtaining official state recognition

and it is the state, who would be the better expert on its own indigenous people, their history and their territories.

Based upon the forgoing, I support the change but I would like to see a change to criteria "e" as well. I would add that a state recognized tribe has met this criteria (or words to that affect), or at least that the term "state recognized" be added as a line in the "Evidence acceptable" paragraph.

Thank you for providing this forum. I applaud your effort and if I can be of service, please don't hesitate to ask. You can reach me at the address and contact information on this letterhead but my home phone number is 843-347-2112 and my cell number is 843-347-3940.

Sincerely,



Harold (Buster) Hatcher  
Chief